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the expense to be purely financial it would be deplorable enough, but to the cost in dollars and cents must be added the ever-present moral degeneracy and its pernicious influence upon society.

The manual contains 112 pages and gives practical instruction to guide inexperienced medical officers in the application of their knowledge of mental disease and defects. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

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### COOPERATION OF PHYSICIANS IN VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL WORK.

The Venereal Disease Division of the Public Health Service has, in addition to its propaganda among druggists as mentioned in Public Health Reports of April 4, also circularized physicians with pledge cards. Agreement cards containing the following pledges were mailed to 131,830 physicians in the United States:

"1. To report my venereal disease cases in accordance with the laws and board of health regulations of my State.

"2. To secure prompt treatment for all venereal cases that come to me, either treating them myself or referring them to a clinic or physician known by me to be competent in the treatment of such cases.

"3. Not to dispense medicines which I prescribe in venereal cases, except when they can not be obtained from a drug store; and not to recommend, prescribe, or sell any proprietary remedy marketed for the self-treatment of venereal disease.

"4. To give to every venereal disease patient a circular of instructions, a supply of which is to be furnished me free of charge by the United States Public Health Service or my State board of health."

By March 15, 50,271 cards signed by physicians had been returned to the bureau and large numbers are being received each day. The revised Manual for Treatment of Venereal Diseases will be sent to each physician signing the card, either by the State board of health or by the Public Health Service. The success of the entire venereal disease control program depends almost entirely upon the support that is given to it by the physicians of the country. The signed cards of physicians will likewise be turned over to the State health officers, so that the venereal disease control program in each State may be carried on by the proper local authorities.

The Public Health Service is endeavoring to decentralize this work as much as possible and have the State and local health authorities assume the leadership, supervision, and responsibility for the work in their respective districts.